

History of the Athenian Club

1850-1950 Lehi Centennial History

By Martha Mitchell

In the fall of 1909, a group of ladies decided to organize a study club. The purpose was to review and discuss the past and present books of literature and art and to foster cultural development. This was the beginning of the Athenian Literary Club. It was organized December 27, 1909, at the home of Mrs. Emmerette Smith. The following officers were elected: President-Emmerette Smith; Vice President-Mrs Julia Child; Secretary- Mrs. Jane Ford; Corresponding Secretary-Mrs. Amanda Russon; and treasurer-Mrs. Olena Goodwin.

These officers and the following ladies constitute the charter members: Mrs. Anna Stookey, Mrs. Pearl Cutler; Mrs. Jennie Earl, Mrs. Lucy Rockhill, Mrs. Alice Ross, Mrs. Kate Kirkham, Mrs. Eva Merrill, Mrs. Ada Hasler, Mrs. Sytha Howard, Mrs. Edith Friel, Mrs. Rose Wadsworth, Mrs. Eliza Crabb, Mrs. Ann C. Fyffe, Mrs. Sarah A. Pearson, and Mrs. Lodicia Hopkins. The Club colors yellow and white were chosen.

The following spring a public library for Lehi was discussed. A dance was sponsored and the proceeds given to the project. Each member donated a book. Thus began a record of civic service of which the Athenian members are justly proud. In April they joined the First District Federated Clubs and the following September joined the State Federation.

During the next ten years, they became conscious of many civic responsibilities. Substantial contributions were made to the library. The picture "Sistine Madonna" was presented to the Primary School Building. When World War I was declared in 1917, they sponsored a chapter of the Red Cross and each Wednesday "Athenian Day" was set aside as a Red Cross work day.

They became inactive during the flu epidemic of 1918-1919, but became

even more enthusiastic in 1919-1920 and organized for greater civic and cultural betterment. They supported the library, college loan fund, Red Cross, Near East Relief and organized their own "Athenian Club Relief fund.". This was used mostly for spinal meningitis victims during the epidemic of 1928. Other needy people were also helped. They sponsored a kindergarten and became actively associated with better homes and clean-up drives. In 1929, the Lions Club cooperated with Athenians, and for many years supplied milk for undernourished school children. This was the beginning of the school lunch program in Lehi.

Many civic and cultural projects were sponsored and supported during 1930-1940. Mothers' Day was added to their program, a Hawthorne tree was planted in Wines park in honor of George Washington's 200th birthday, and a float was entered into the Black Hawk parade. They helped organize adult education classes at the Lehi High School, supported the Community Fair of September 1932 with money and exhibits, donated to the community children's Christmas Party given generously to the Lehi Hospital and supplied spoons and bowls for school lunch. They supported college loans and penny art funds, child health and cancer drives, gave books to the library, sewed numerous articles for Red Cross relief, and received a certificate for winning an original song contest at the State Convention.

The spring of 1934, a gold pin was awarded to the Lehi High School girl graduate who excelled in activities as well as scholarship. This was given to further good citizenship and has continued for fifteen years.

In September 1935, Athenians saw the need for a drinking fountain in Wines Park and the following summer they erected a beautiful one on the east side of the park.

The memorial grounds around the pioneer monument needed beautification, so in 1939, they furnished and planted dozens of roses and shrubs. They also sponsored a Junior Club that year. It is now known as the Auctus Club.

The last ten years 1940-50 were busy ones with war and post war work as an

added responsibility. Members had fourteen sons and one daughter in the services of the army and navy. The following worthy projects and causes were supported and contributed to: Red Cross, cancer, tuberculosis, polio, rheumatic fever, and infantile paralysis, fat, tin cans and scrap metal drives were conducted. Athenians organized other clubs of Lehi is an inter-city unit and solicited for War Bonds, Red Cross, United War Funds, March of Dimes, and other causes. They supported the bond drive by purchasing a \$100.00 bond. Many hundreds of hours were spent in such work as home nursing, hundreds of hours were spent in such work as home nursing, assisting doctors in clinical work, attending Red Cross, first aid and nutrition classes, and sewing and knitting dozens of articles for Red Cross and hospitals. They sent a card table to Lehi soldiers at Camp San Luis Obispo and remembered Athenian members' sons and daughters in the various services with beautiful handkerchiefs and Christmas cards.

The post war activities were many and varied. They sent knitted afghans, books, magazines, musical instruments, tools and materials to Veterans and Bushnell Hospitals to aid wounded soldiers in rehabilitating themselves. They sent a contribution to be used for their entertainment. Donations were made to the European U.S.O. and War Veterans Committees, and a contribution was sent to the State Industrial School to help purchase a combination radio and phonograph.

Help was given to the community by purchasing some Christmas decorations for the city streets, giving a substantial sum toward a resuscitator for Lehi Hospital, contributing to the high school by buying as well as selling tickets for benefit of band uniforms, helping send a High School girl to Girl's State and Logan in 1949, and cooperating with other Lehi clubs in helping furnish and plant 500 tulip bulbs in the cemetery.

Athenians welcomed an opportunity to bring some five paintings to Lehi. In 1941, they cooperated with the high school and purchased J. T. Harwood's oil painting of Lehi's Old Fort Wall" Again in 1943 they helped frame a collection of Edwin C. Evans paintings. These hang in the high school library.

Besides giving of their time and talents to the betterment of society.

Athenians have not neglected the aims and purposes of this club to review good literature and foster cultural development. Each year a full program of plays and books have been reviewed and studied. Various programs of art, literature, sculpture, opera, travel, home economics, gardening, biographies, sociology, world problems, current events, and histories of many countries have been ably presented. Members have received valuable information from these lessons and many social hours enjoyed. This year Athenian celebrated its fortieth birthday.

The present officers are: President Mrs. Adela G. Fox; Vice President, Mrs. Olive B. Harding; Secretary, Mrs Laura B. Smith; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Annie L. Webb; Treasurer, Mrs. Edith D. Evans.